MONTEREY NEWS

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MontereyFest 2013: (Above) The Fishing Derby at the Berkshire Hatchery pool. (Below) Oren Rosenthal led the sing-along at Gould Farm's Harvest Barn as part of the Farm's 100th anniversary celebration and reunion in conjunction with MontereyFest. (Photos by Dorene Beller; more photos on pp. 10 and 11.)

The Town

by Susan Gallant

Second-Homeowners Meeting

At the beginning of August, Select Board members Muriel Lazzarini and Wayne Burkhart sat down with a group of second homeowners to respond to their questions and discuss their concerns. The number-one, ongoing topic of these meetings continues to be the inconvenience of transfer-station stickers that various family members and friends need to use over the course of the summer. As it stands now, residents can purchase two stickers annually for $60. Each sticker must display the license plate number of the vehicle it's affixed to. It's also possible to purchase temporary stickers that are valid for four weeks and cost $20.

The opinion expressed at the meeting is that it's too expensive to purchase stickers for each visitor's car and that it would be more convenient if the stickers displayed the address of the home where a person is staying, so that it can be passed among various friends and relatives.

The Select Board is taking these suggestions under advisement and also speaking with Maynard Forbes and Gareth Backhaus so that all relevant issues are taken into consideration before the Board makes any policy changes. The Select Board does, however, strongly suggest that homeowners who regularly rent out their homes to a number of different people throughout the year should consider hiring a trash-pickup service to avoid any unnecessary complications.

One other question that came up during the meeting was whether part-time homeowners could be appointed to committees. Those interested in a specific committee should inform that committee of your interest.

Requests for the Highway Dept.

Jeff Purvis, of Chestnut Hill Road, came in on August 5 to voice his concerns about the road where he lives and the lack of maintenance it receives from the town. He says that the steep part of the road is washed out and very bumpy, making travel up the hill virtually impossible. Utility companies, not to mention rescue vehicles, cannot do their jobs if the road is impassable. He says that, as far as he knows, the town hasn't touched the road at all this year, and now it's completely washed out. He has left several messages for the Highway Department about this matter, but so far, he's received no response.

The following week, Julio Rodriguez joined the meeting with a similar issue regarding the town-owned portion of Sylvan Road. Julio suggested the road be blacktopped and also noted that the town-owned portion of the road gets no town maintenance whatsoever, not even wintertime plowing and sanding. In response, the Select Board recalled an agreement the Sylvan Road Committee made with the town to have its private contractor, and not the town, provide winter maintenance because the town plows create a berm that makes it difficult for the private contractor to maintain the remainder of the road. According to Julio, Sylvan Road residents no longer want to be responsible for the town-owned portion of the road.

The Board passed on Julio's concerns to Director of Operations Maynard Forbes, specifically, that patching the road would not be sufficient. Maynard agreed, but said that the cost of paving the road, estimated at $10,000, was not in this year's budget; however, at the Board's request, it will be paved next year. As of August 19, the patching of the town-owned portion of Sylvan Rd. is near completion.

As for Chestnut Hill Road, Maynard reported that his crew had graded the road in May, but soon after that an unidentified tractor trailer attempted to traverse the hill, got stuck, and tore up the road in its attempt to free itself. When the road was graded, "No Tractor Trailers" signs were also posted that are apparently routinely ignored.

Beavers

On August 5, Select Board member Wayne Burkhart took the opportunity, while Maynard Forbes was in attendance, to mention that Bonner McAllister had asked Wayne if he knew why the Highway Department didn't apply for grant money from the Nion Robert Thieriot Foundation that would fund the humane, nonlethal mitigation of beaver-related flooding. According to Maynard, in Monterey, beavers are plugging culverts and creating problems that can't be solved by the Beaver Deceiver, which is what the grant is funding.

On a related matter, Alice Berke joined the Select Board meeting on August 19 to bexpress her concerns about beaver trapping on Brewer Pond. She told the Board that she lives on Brewer Pond and walks the trail around it every day. According to Alice, last winter she came across a man using lethal and suitcase traps to destroy beavers. She said that as far as she knew, beavers were not a problem on Brewer Pond and therefore wanted to know why the animals and their habitats were being destroyed. Alice also noted that, from what she could observe, the trapper never returned to check his traps. She requested that the town discontinue trapping on Brewer Pond.

Maynard Forbes responded to Alice's concerns in an email to the Select Board, explaining that last year, in October, Lake Garfield was drawn down, as it is every year, at the recommendation of the Conservation Commission. All was well until the level of the lake began rising again. On further inspection, Maynard and his crew discovered that beavers had plugged up the outlet pipe in Brewer Pond that connects it to the Konkapot River. According to Maynard, "We cannot put up a Beaver

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Deceiver fence because it is under water and cannot be kept clean and would be a hazard to boot." Maynard says that traps will most likely be set again this year and that the trapper he hires is conscientious and checks the traps regularly, as required by law.

Cell Tower & Other Techie News

Carol Ingher came by to find out when the cell tower would be up and running. And the answer is, no one knows. The reason being that when a huge company, such as AT&T, contracts out a project to various companies, the lines of communication get blurred—ironic, since its industry is communications. Although this may be frustrating and even infuriating to some, it is the reality of the situation. The Select Board does, however, want everyone to know that permits have been issued for T-Mobile, AT&T, and Verizon to erect antennas, and building permits are in place for building the concrete pad for the generator. Estimates on when the tower will be going live have ranged from a couple of weeks to a couple of months, but, truth be told, these are all best guesses.

In light of that non-information, Carol also wanted to know whether it would be possible to establish a Wi Fi connection at town hall for residents to use when the library is closed or for those who prefer the ambiance of town hall over that of the General Store. In response, Melissa Noe, Monterey's executive secretary, spoke with our IT person, who went ahead and established the connection. So all those currently without high-speed connections at home can come to town hall and fulfill their need for speed. No password required.

Angelica Collins

Movie night at Greene Park, sponsored by Park Commission: Despicable Me

Doggie Playground, et al.

Josh Allentuck, head of the parks department, asked the Select Board for guidance on the doggie playground, or as it's more formally known, the Greene Park Extension, that's being proposed for the area behind the pavilion. All agreed that the next step would be to produce a site plan to map out all components of the park. Berkshire Geo-Technologies provided an estimate of $6,800 for such a plan. That amount exceeds the $5,000 procurement cap and must therefore be put out to bid. Wayne Burkhart suggested, and the other board members agreed that due to the costs involved as well as the potential for controversy such a project could raise, it would be best to present it at town meeting for discussion and approval. In the meantime, Josh will be working on ways to gauge voters' opinion about the project. (See related article, p. 13.)

Police Activity

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus joined the August 19 Select Board meeting to report on the following activity handled by his department over the past month.

- Report of a lost bike rack; if found, please notify the Monterey police.
- Report of a persistent car alarm that the police disabled since owners were out of town.
- Medical call on Sandisfield Rd. >

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- Report of a branch hanging over Bidwell Rd. that was taken care of by the Highway Department.
- False alarms at Tyringham Rd. Gareth wants to remind people that if your alarm does go off and you know it's a false alarm, please call your alarm company to report it and cancel the police response.
- Lost German shepherd dog, Rocky, on Carrington Battelle.
- Motor vehicle accident outside of post office. Gareth wants everyone to remember to use caution when pulling in and backing out of the post office parking area.
- Motor vehicle accident on Main Rd.
- Aided New York police with search for a missing person whose cell phone was pinging off Chestnut Hill Rd.
- Assisted Great Barrington with an abandoned 911 call at the state park.
- Bicycle versus car accident. The bicyclist, who was at fault, was transported to the hospital.
- Call from Corashire Rd. reporting that someone was driving around in an unmarked van, claiming to be lost. The van, when spotted, turned out to be owned by a legitimate cleaning company, but it had no markings, which is required of commercial vehicles.
- Call from Mt Hunger Rd. about the presence of a suspicious vehicle and an unknown person, who was apparently visiting someone in the neighborhood.
- Complaints from Art School Rd. about dogs barking continuously. Two officers responded on two separate occasions, and both times, the owners were not home. An alternate number was found and the owners, who were out of town, were contacted. As it turns out, the person responsible for watching their dogs was leaving them outside, a fact the owners were unaware of.
- Complaint from Blue Hill Rd. about excessive piles of cow manure found on road, resulting from a broken tailgate on a truck. The farm owners were contacted and asked to clean up the road.
- Medical call at the playground involving a six-year-old child who fell off the equipment and hurt his arm.
- Complaint about a woman who left a bag of garbage outside a private residence. By the time the police arrived, that person had returned and picked up her garbage.
- Complaint on Mt. Hunger Rd. about someone being chased by a dog, whose owners claimed the dog was in "training" and that they would try to stop it from doing this in the future.

Muriel Lazzarini mentioned that she was given a tour of the new police cruiser and was quite impressed with all its new bells and whistles. Gareth also added that with all the new features in the cruiser, he sometimes doesn't have a free hand to respond to a wave from a resident. He wants everyone to know that they shouldn't take his unresponsiveness personally, it's just that he doesn't have a hand to spare!

Fire Details

The Select Board asked Fire Chief Shawn Tryon to join its August 19 meeting to get some clarification on his department's general expenses, beginning with what is included in the rent the town pays. According to Shawn, the town currently pays the phone bill and the company pays for oil and electricity. He suggested that, going forward, a lease be drafted that would have the Fire Company pay for all utilities, including the phone bill. All of this comes out of the Fire Department line item of $49,800. The rest of the money goes toward servicing the trucks and testing and certifying equipment.

Town usage—town meetings and elections—has never been included in the rent, and events are billed individually, $100 per town meeting and $80 per election. Checks

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covering these events are made out to the person who does the setup. Training and calls will be separated out into two line items so that training will be fixed at an exact amount. Monterey's accountant has been asked to calculate the cost of calls over the past few years to determine an average, in an attempt to more accurately budget for this expense in the future.

The Danger of Impassable Roads

Fire Chief Shawn Tryon wants to put on notice all those who live on private roads that are poorly maintained and excessively overgrown with vegetation. Poor maintenance and overgrowth make these roads impassable, especially for large emergency vehicles. This is an extremely dangerous situation should an ambulance or fire truck need to respond in an emergency and puts those of us who live on these roads at high risk. The two roads that Shawn sees as having the biggest problems are Sylvan Road and Point Road, but anyone who lives on a privately maintained road should make sure to remove overgrowth and keep roads in good repair.

And in Other News

Kay Purcell, having expressed interest in joining the Monterey Historical Commission, was unanimously approved by the Select Board for a three-year term.

On August 12, the Select Board, at Town Clerk Emily Johnson's request, unanimously approved one-year appointments for the following election workers: Denise Andrus, John Bodnar, Estella Bodnar, Maryellen Brown, Norma Champigny, Ruth Champigny, Gail Heath, Fran Huberman, Pat Mielke, Kathleen Purcell, Barbara Tryon, and Cynthia Weber. More people are needed in these important positions, so if anyone is interested in taking part in this basic of all democratic processes, please contact Emily Johnson. Because Monterey pays its election workers less than many other towns in the area, Emily will be surveying other towns to determine the average hourly rate to get our town more in line with the neighboring communities.

A Hero in our Midst

Katherine Stevens just may owe her life to the quick thinking of Michael Ordyna, an employee of Tryon Construction, who happened to be operating a weed harvester on Lake Buel on Tuesday, July 9. On that day, according to an article in the July 12 issue of the *North Adams Transcript*, at about 11 a.m., Ms. Stevens, who spends her summers on the lake, was moving her boat, when she fell into the water, striking her back and head on the dock as she entered the water.

Mr. Ordyna, a former fire chief in Great Barrington, witnessed what happened and responded: "I . . . swam over to her. Just as I arrived, she went unconscious." After getting her up on the dock, Mr. Ordyna ran to call 911. Ms. Stevens suffered heavy bruising but no serious injuries. She left the hospital and returned home that evening.

In an interview with the *Transcript*, Katherine Stevens expressed her appreciation for the "full community response," including and especially Michael Ordyna, as well as her neighbors who locked her doors, tied her boat, and sent get-well cards, and the actions of emergency personnel, including our own Maynard Forbes.

As for Michael Ordyna, after the ambulance "picked her up, I jumped off the dock, swam back to my machine, and started weeding again," he said. What a guy!

Hazardous Waste Dates

No, it's not a kinky new way to impress a love interest, but rather the days on which materials, such as used motor oil, oil-based paints, turpentine, and the like can be dropped off for disposal.

So gather ye chemicals and bring them to the Lenox Dept. of Public Works, 275 Main St., on Saturday, September 7, from 9 to 11 a.m., or to the Great Barrington Recycling Center, Route 7, across from the high school, on either Wednesday, October 2, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., or Saturday, October 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

But be warned: Preregistration is mandatory, either by phone at 888-577-8448, ext. 10 or 14, or online at www.cetonlin.org/events. Check out the website for additional information and a list of acceptable items. ॐ

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MaryPaul Yates and some of her fabric (photos: Maureen Banner, l., and Guy Gurney)

Ongoing and Upcoming at the Knox Gallery

Fall is a shaping up to be a busy season at the Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. *MaryPaul Yates: Fabric Design* continues through September 28. The exhibit showcases a selection of fabrics, along with preliminary sketches and development notes, that MaryPaul has developed for numerous fabric mill, wholesaler, and furniture manufacturer clients. We that hope you will take a look and that the exhibit will spur viewers to thoughtfully consider what goes into producing fabric—a material that surrounds each of us most of the time. For more information please see the article "Exhibits in Knox Gallery" in the August *Monterey News*.

You may not have time to read your October *Monterey News* in time to learn of our next exhibit, *Midori Curtis: Abstract Prints and Drawings Exhibition.* This exhibition of *intalgio* and woodblock prints and *sumi* drawings will open at the Knox Gallery on Friday, October 4, with a reception on Saturday, October 5, from 7–8:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars now!

A native of Kobe, Japan, Midori works from her studios in New York City and Monterey, where she and her husband have been part-time residents for over twenty-five years. Her work has been featured in many international solo and group exhibitions and can be found in numerous private, corporate, and museum collections including The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Imperial Palace of Japan. Midori is a graduate of the Women's College of Fine Art and Design in Tokyo and received her BFA from the School of Visual Arts and her MFA in printmaking from the School of the Arts at Columbia University.

Our community shows exemplify the spirit of the Gallery as both an exhibition and a community space. We anticipate that our winter show, *In the Details*, which will open on December 13, will draw the same caliber of exciting work as our recent exhibit, *Matter Reconsidered*. For *In the Details*, Monterey artists and friends are invited to submit one or two pieces of work that are less than 50 square inches in surface area (not including the frame) and not more than 7 inches deep. Work in any media is welcome. Entry forms will be available at the library and online by late September, and will need to be submitted by mid-October. Look for more details in next month's *Monterey News*.

Monterey Cultural Council Seeks Funding Proposals

The Monterey Cultural Council is again seeking proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs due October 15. From the Massachusetts Cultural Council website: "The Monterey Cultural Council strives to provide a range of diverse offerings that include performance and hands-on opportunities that reflect all the arts and other cultural and community events of interest. Although we fund regional projects, we prioritize projects that are inclusive and reflective of our town's population."

The Monterey Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

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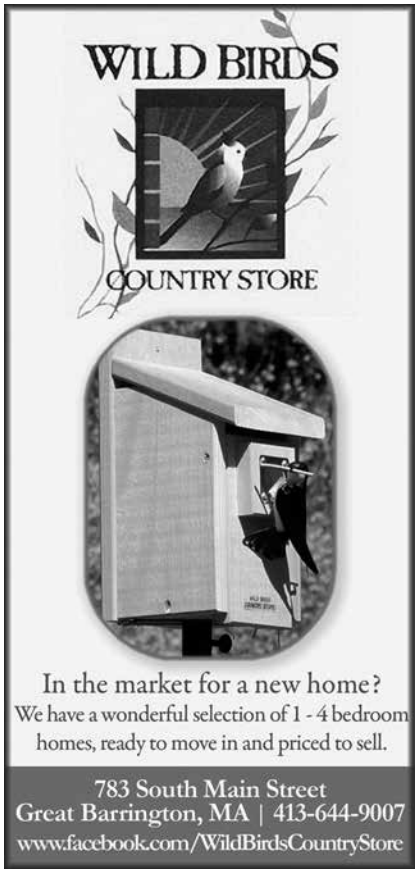


For the 2014 fiscal year, the Monterey Cultural Council has been allocated $4,250 to distribute through grants. Previously funded projects include guest storytellers at the library, programs at the Bidwell House, scholarships, and funding for local musicians, to name a few. For specific guidelines and complete information on the application process and forms, visit www.mass-culture.org. For those without computer access, application forms will also be available at the Monterey Library, Monterey Town Hall and the Roadside Cafe. Applications must be mailed to: Monterey Cultural Council, PO Box 282, Monterey, MA 01245 and must be postmarked by October 15, 2013. For further information contact Wendy Jensen, Chairperson, wendygj@gmail.com or 413-528-4007.

—Pat Salomon

Marshall Messer Reads at Monterey Library Sept. 7

Our Monterey neighbor Marshall Messer will read from his new novel, *Change at Jamaica*, at the Monterey Library at 7 p.m. on Saturday, September 7, followed by discussion, a book signing, and conversation over refreshments.

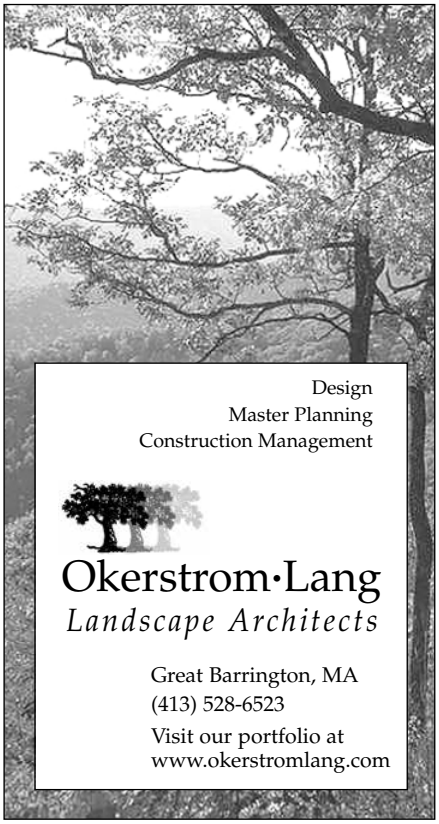
Change in Jamaica is a coming-of-age novel about a young man who has dropped out of college and is struggling to find his place in the world in the chaotic early 1970s, a quest made more difficult by his overbearing father who has his own ideas of what his son should do. The linchpin of the story is Eddie's relationship with his father (known as the Captain) and horse racing: the track, specifically Aqueduct, site of the Belmont Stakes, is the only place where Eddie and his father can get along, brought together there by their mutual love of watching, handicapping, and betting on the ponies.

Beginning with the opening scene at Aqueduct on the day that Secretariat runs an unbelievable race to win the Belmont Stakes, readers are taken on a rollercoaster ride through several New York City subcultures, notably the racing scene, the world of cab drivers (Eddie drives a cab in Manhattan for a while), and the rare coin business (the Captain's specialty). Along the way we meet some real characters. And, yes, there is a young lady in the picture, who of course comes with complications of her own. But the most interesting, and disquieting, ride of all is the one through the mind and thinking of a young American male rushing to find out who he is.

Marshall Messer's background tells us where *Change in Jamaica* is coming from. He has been a cab driver, bartender, garbageman, actor, and teacher, and has witnessed more than thirty Belmont Stakes. Along the way he attended Woodstock and played blues harp at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He knows the territory he is writing about, and he has written a funny, ribald, serious, and sometimes disturbing book. He is an animated reader, and the evening at the library promises to be entertaining.

Change in Jamaica is published in both print and audio form by Monterey's own Jason Brown of Berkshire Media Artists. Jason has published many notable audio books, but this is his first venture into printed books. Both forms will be available at the reading, and Marshall will be happy to sign them.

—Will Marsh



Taxpayers' Corner
Using Town Funds, Part 2

Last month's Taxpayers' Corner covered the use of several types of available funds, stabilization and free cash, as revenue sources. The reserve fund is another revenue source funded by property taxes.

MGL, Chapter 40, Section 6, allows towns to create a reserve fund to "provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures." It states that "transfers from the fund may from time to time be voted by the finance or appropriation committee of the town."

According to *A Guide to Financial Management for Town Officials*, published by the Division of Local Services, "How the fund is used depends upon a community's interpretation of the terms 'extraordinary' or 'unforeseen.' … In general, extraordinary or unforeseen items such as an increased insurance premium or replacing a damaged police cruiser are acceptable. Salary increases are generally not an acceptable use of this reserve. Finance committees should adopt their own guidelines to supplement the state statute and provide other town officials with a better understanding of the circumstances under which the committee is likely to use the reserve fund."

Monterey has a reserve fund, but the Finance Committee does not have guidelines for its use, and this omission impacts expenditures and taxes.

Last year, $21,494.61 was transferred from the reserve fund to pay for FY12 budget overruns of various departments, including $2,176.70 for Treasurer tax titles, $2,000.00 for a Tax Collector computer, $1,729.76 for the ZBA, $6,343.64 for Police expenses, and $8,100.00 for Fire and Medical compensation.

According to the minutes of the 9/10/12 Select Board meeting, when these overruns were addressed, "He [the Town Accountant] stated that the reserve funds should be used for unexpected budget items." However, although there was a quorum of two Finance Committee members present at this meeting (the Finance Committee had not met on its own since January 20, 2012), there was no discussion about whether the transfer requests for any of those overruns met the criteria of "extraordinary" or "unforeseen." Moreover, the minutes subsequently state, "All were approved," but there was no recorded Finance Committee vote to approve those transfers—a legal requirement of MGL Chapter 40, Section 6. So, without a Finance Committee vote, the transfers were clearly unauthorized.

Aside from the procedural infraction, why does this matter? After all, $21,000 is less than one percent of the total budget. For one, according to *A Guide to Financial Management for Town Officials*, "The initial town budget is approved at annual town meeting prior to the July 1 commencement of the fiscal year. During the course of the fiscal year, special town meetings may be convened to refine the budget, transfer funds or address other municipal business."

In other words, except for "extraordinary" or "unforeseen" expenses, the proper way to "refine the budget, transfer funds or address other municipal business" is at a special town meeting, and the reason for this is simple: it isn't good fiscal policy to have town boards spend taxpayer dollars without their consent. Small municipalities in Massachusetts use a form of government called direct democracy, in which town voters are the appropriating authority. Except in the case of snow and salt emergencies or the school district budget, appropriations cannot and should not be made without a vote.

Moreover, far more than $21,000 is sometimes at stake. For example, on February 23, 2009, at the recommendation of the Employee Compensation Committee, the Select Board voted "that elected town officials who do not regularly work twenty hours per week will no longer be eligible

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for participation in the town's group health insurance plan." The board also voted "to rescind any prior votes and terminate any prior policies or determinations that provided coverage to elected town officials who do not regularly work 20 hours per week." This cost-saving policy change was brought before the voters at that year's annual town meeting for their approval, specifically as it affected costs associated with the Town Clerk position, which had formerly been eligible for health insurance.

Last year, however, soon after town elections, the newest Town Clerk requested health insurance for the position. The ensuing deliberations regarding this request spanned months and were so convoluted they deserve their own column, but it would take too many words here to describe how the Select Board came to circumvent the 2009 vote and to offer health insurance for this position, despite Finance Committee recommendations against doing so.

What matters is that after voters at town meeting had approved just $16,000 for the FY13 Town Clerk position, $18,000 a year in health insurance costs were suddenly added to it. That's right, a $16,000 position was turned into a $34,000 position—plus $3,000 a year that would eventually need to be appropriated in retirement benefits—without input from voters.

Over ten years, that would amount to adding at least $200,000 to the Town Clerk position (taking into account inflation), plus having to save at least $30,000 for the future retiree in the health and life insurance stabilization fund. So, within a decade, over a quarter of a million dollars in potential tax liabilities would have been incurred by the Select Board without going to the appropriating body for its specific approval.

(By the way, even after the new Town Clerk resigned on January 14, 2013, effective April 1, the Select Board neither removed the $18,000 in health insurance in the FY14 budget for the vacant position, nor voluntarily informed voters at annual town meeting that the FY14 budget included the additional health insurance coverage for the Town Clerk position.)

So how did the Select Board pay for FY13's health insurance budget overrun? Was a request made at the May town meeting? No. Was a request made at the July special town meeting? No. In fact, as of this writing, the overrun still hasn't been paid for. But what will likely happen is that the Finance Committee, despite knowing that this expense was neither "extraordinary" nor "unforeseen"—after all, it was unanimously approved by the Select Board—will vote to allow the overrun to be covered from reserves, effectively granting the Select Board the privilege, once again, of acting as the appropriating authority, and depriving voters of the right to decide on an enormous long-term expenditure.

For this reason, voters may want to ask that from now on all foreseeable overruns, and any Select Board decision that affects the budget, be brought to town meeting or special town meeting for voter consideration, and that the reserve fund be used only for its intended purpose, to pay for dire emergencies.

—Jonathan Sylbert

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center of Monterey & look for my sign

MontereyFest 2013: Oh, What a Day It Was!

MontereyFest 2013 on Saturday, August 17, began with a fishing contest at the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery (see photo, p. 1). The winner of the contest this year—having caught the largest fish—was Nadia Makuc (right), 9 years old. Hunter Brown, 11 years old came in at second place, and Ted Dunn, 7 years old came in at third place. Fifty children participated, as well as 25 fish that were caught and released. (Thank you, fish!)

The day continued at Gould Farm, where family activities took place as part of both MontereyFest and Gould Farm's 100th Anniversary Celebration and Reunion Weekend. Eager participants were shuttled from their cars via tractor to many of the day's activities.

Massachusetts State Representative and Lenox resident William "Smitty" Pignatelli (below with Roy Carwile) stopped by to take part in the fun.

A nature walk on Diane's Trail was led by Bob Rausch (below).

And there were lots of activities at Gould Farm for the kids—a sing-along (see photo, p. 1),

art projects,

a pie-eating contest,

a petting zoo,

and a hay jump.

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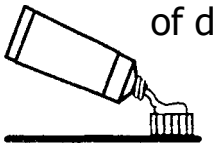

528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

Afternoon fun took place at Lake Garfield—

boat rides,

face painting,

sand-castle building,

Roger the Jester,

a hot dog roast,

and a marshmallow roast.

The day ended . . .

with dancing on the beach

and spectacular fireworks.

—Dorene Beller (text and photos)

Many thanks to Dorene Beller and Mayra Rodriguez for once again spearheading the organization of our community celebration and to all the volunteers who made it happen. Well done! —Ed.

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August Wildlife Report: Bears, Bugs, Birds, a Bobcat

Early in the month the Lombardos on Mt. Hunger Estates saw a bobcat in front of their garage, about 4:00 p.m. They have also had young deer now and then in the driveway and a porcupine in the back yard. On Fairview Road, July 31, Wendy Benjamin saw a bear in late morning, and they had a good look at each other before going separate ways. Linda Waxman writes from Beartown Mountain Road that she was sitting on her screen porch July 30 and watched "the largest black bear I have seen in sixteen years" come across the field. The small dog of the house set up a clamor, and the bear headed off into the woods. About a week later, Linda and Gary Rosenberg saw a mother bear and two cubs cross the road just past their driveway.

(from left): Ed Salsitz's katydid (can you spot it?); Carol Ingher's American toad; Wendy Benjamin's moose; Maureen Banner's amorous grasshoppers

On August 12, Ed Salsitz sent photos of two bugs. One is a beetle, still anonymous as we go to press, and the other is a classy green katydid, perched on a leaf. The next day we got a good photo from Carol Ingher, of an American toad, well fed.

The only moose of the month was a fine one along Route 23, just over in Otis, spotted in the evening as Wendy Benjamin drove home from Jacob's Pillow's Inside Out show.

We have news of grasshoppers this time, from Maureen Banner, who noted a couple in love (photo), and from Will and Glynis Marsh, who observed the following. They have a hummingbird feeder hanging from a pole. Typically, their hummingbirds come to feed at one spot on the circular feeder and then go zipping off. This time, the hummingbird went all around the feeder, most unusual, in a way that seemed to be in direct response to the presence of an intruder, a grasshopper sitting on the pole right above the feeder. It seemed the bird was

Book Signing

Change at Jamaica

by Marshall Messer

Saturday September 7
7:00pm
Monterey Library

"A more replete novel of sporting New York in all its vulgar glory could hardly be imagined – Jaimy Gordon

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letting the grasshopper know this feeder is already taken.

Richard Nault wrote in to say there has been a sea gull coming to Lake Buel for many years, also this summer a family of bald eagles in residence and a pair of cormorants, fishing.

On Route 23, Stephanie Grotz has been watching deer coming to eat fallen apples, and on August 20 there was "a mama with twins. One of them was nursing yesterday morning." Stephanie also writes of a bear with a bad limp that came across the yard, followed by two cubs, which seemed fine.

Here on eastern Hupi Rd., we have a porcupine up one of our apple trees, the September Stripe, dropping down apples where they are enjoyed by: us, deer, slugs, and Russell the dog. Harvest time is here.

Thank you for your wild sightings, bugs to bears. We are lucky when we can identify, or even better identify with. This touches the wild within us.

—Bonner McAllester
528-9385, bmca@berkshire.net

Dog Park in Proposed Greene Park Extension

Have you heard? Have you told your family? Your friends? Your dog?

Plans are in the works for a Greene Park extension that would become an exciting new community recreational area. The proposal still includes a long-awaited dog park, which was approved by the voters overwhelmingly in 2010. But now, at the suggestion of the Select Board, there will be something for everyone.

This past June, after other locations had proved problematic, a small group of dog park proponents asked the Select Board for assistance in finding a more appropriate site. The board encouraged the group to seek a parcel owned by the town, leading to the one now being proposed. The land is located next to the fire company pavilion, farther north on Fox Hill Run. It appears to be a perfect size to accommodate the expanded recreation area the Select Board has in mind.

Along with a playground for our four-legged residents, the new park would include a relocated basketball court safely positioned away from the present parking area, an improved children's playground which would no longer sit atop a septic field, and a modest amphitheater to provide a venue for summer movies and additional programs in spring and fall. A tennis court, which is attracting private donations, as well as walking/cross-country ski trails would likely appeal to an even larger portion of the Monterey community. There could also be a picnic area and a restroom. The proposed parking area would provide ample space for cars.

Sounds appealing, doesn't it? But what about the cost? This is a legitimate concern for all taxpayers, as the project would be under the auspices of the Park Commission and largely funded by the town. Careful consideration is being given to the expense of each separate element, and estimates will be prepared in time for the town budget meeting next May. Perhaps the project needs to be completed in stages. Perhaps changes should be made to the plan. Here's where you come in.

Please give us input as we move forward with this proposal. What do you like about the idea? What alterations would you suggest? What new elements do you think would make the finished park even better? In order to gain widespread support for this initiative, we need your thoughtful input. Let's make this "Dog Park Plus" a reality—and the best it can be!

Suggestions can be sent to Julio Rodriguez, jrodrn@aol.com, or call 413-644-8833. And thanks in advance for your interest and support.

—Ellen Coburn

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Music & More Authors Panel Discussion Oct. 5

Three award-winning authors will gather at the New Marlborough Meeting House for a moderated talk about the challenges and successes of their work on October 5 at 4:30 p.m. The discussion is moderated again this year by Mitchel Levitas of the *New York Times*.

Tickets are $15 or $10 for members of the New Marlborough Village Association and can be reserved at musicandmoreberkshires.org, or by calling 413-229-2785. The Meeting House is at 154 Hartsville–New Marlborough Road. A book signing and reception follows the talk.

Williamstown native Elizabeth Graver is the author of several novels, most recently *The End of the Point*, and a series of short-story collections, including *Have You Seen Me?*, winner of the 1991 Drue Heinz Literature Prize.

Robert K. Massie is the author of the Pulitzer Prize–winning *Nicholas and Alexandra.* He also authored *The Romanovs: The Final Chapter*; *Dreadnought*; and *Castles of Steel.* His latest book is *Catherine the Great*.

Katherine Hall Page is the author of twenty-one mysteries and four young-adult books, and is the winner of three Agatha (Christie) awards.

Bidwell House Museum September Events

September 5–9

Bidwell and Brewer Family Reunion.
Please note: The Bidwell House Museum is closed for tours on Sunday, September 8.

Saturday, September 21

10 a.m.: Housatonic Heritage Walk: Bee Hunting on Bidwell Grounds
Learn how farmers of old searched for and captured honeybees, and how you can too. Michael White will explain how to "hunt" for a bee colony and lead a guided walk on the Bidwell grounds in search of bees and other pollinators. The walk will be about one mile in the woods, some of it off-trail. Please wear appropriate shoes, dress for the weather, and bring water. Note: Does not include a tour of the house interior.

1:00 p.m.: Housatonic Heritage Walk: Bidwell House Museum: From Hinterland to Homestead
Join Rob Hoogs on a walk to experience two centuries of settlement at the Historic Bidwell Homestead at the center of Township No.1 and explore the Boston-Albany Post Road, stone walls, cellar holes, and hill-top site of the first meeting house. The walk is about one mile and will take about 1.5 hours. Wear sturdy footwear, and it would be good to bring a drink/snack. Note: Does not include a tour of the house interior.

This program is presented in cooperation with The Cultural Landscape Foundation. REGISTRATION IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED—please register online at www.tclf.org/event/wotw-berkshires.

Saturday, September 28

Stone-Wall Building Workshop with Roger Tryon, 10 a.m.
Please call to register: 413-528-6888.

For all these programs meet at the museum, 100 Art School Road, Monterey. For updates and details, please check www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

Octoberfest Comes to Monterey Oct. 12

On Saturday, October 12, from noon to 5 p.m., the Friends of Wilson-McLaughlin House/Monterey Community Center Committee will hold an Octoberfest celebration on the grounds of the planned center.

After successfully raising the funds to begin turning the Wilson-McLaughlin House into a multipurpose building and gathering place that will serve the entire community, the committee is ready to hold its first event to welcome visitors to the site. Join the committee, family, friends, and neighbors at the Wilson-McLaughlin House at the corner of Main Road and New Marlborough Road for a fun afternoon of outdoor activities, music by local musicians, and food and fares from local artisans and vendors. Take a tour of the grounds to learn more about the vision for the center and the groups and events it will host when completed. The Monterey Community Garden, also a project of this group, will be open for visitors.

Visit our website at www.ccmonterey.org to learn more about the Monterey Community Center. Participation in the project is welcome—whether in the form of cash, labor, or committee efforts. Contributions can be made to FWMH (Friends of Wilson-McLaughlin House) by check or by secure online donation at our website (above). All donations are fully tax-deductible. For more information please contact Mary Makuc (528-5834) or any member of the Monterey Community Center Committee.

Leave the Roots On

whatever you have to say, leave / the roots on
—Charles Olsen

Carrots. White turnips. Rutabagas. Beets.
None of them are the cabbages I saw rooted in rich black loam
from the passing window of my grandfather's sedan
one summer afternoon near Dansville New York.
I stood in the back, hands gripping the front seat upholstery,
linear mind forever stunned into photographic film exposed to lightning,
as if I had never before seen black, green, that purple-red.
As if I had never seen roundness, rootedness, man bent to work
at one with his field, with the cabbages.
He knew them. They knew him, too.
And I knew they knew.

When we get old enough, we call it compassion.
We apply it to ourselves as a goad.
We aim it toward others as a goal.
We forget it's simply cabbages, farmer, and coal black loam.
—Mary Kate Jordan

Flooded

1/19/13

Drip drip drip drip drip
Deeper and deeper the water in the bucket grows
From a quarter inch hole for the electrical conduit
Now funnels runoff from a forty foot
Border of plush moss and water loving perennials
Planted below a ledge of rock shale shrubs and treelets
All useless against hurricane size rains
No matter how much they slurp up and
Luxuriate in continual fresh wetness
The overflow seeps and spreads over the concrete
Under and into recently organized cardboard boxes
Packed for posterity with absorbent articles
Children's books college texts toddler artwork
Receiving blankets under grandmother-knit sweaters
Stuffed animals – all waterlogged and falling in on themselves
All those lives held onto as if the owners
Would go back to living them
This delusion dissolved into another –
The humiliation of garter snakes and toads
Washed in to violate personal preciousness
—Elizabeth Silk

Rawson Brook Farm . . . 30 Years Old

Part 3: Transition Interrupted

In the fall of 1983, with the blessing of the various inspection agencies, we were ready to actively (and legally) market Monterey Chèvre. I had been making cheese in my kitchen for years and over time had tweaked the various procedures to achieve a product I was happy with. Now the goal was to move to the new cheese room and duplicate the process with entirely different, albeit more appropriate, equipment.

The transition into business mode required ongoing education; there was no computer, no Internet, and it was hard to find appropriate information. The bookshelf was full of volumes about cheese making, FDA requirements, business bookkeeping, goats and animal health, and a file box full of agricultural extension instructional pamphlets, magazine articles, correspondence, lists of suppliers of everything from dairy detergent to cheesecloth fabric and prospective contacts and markets that might be interested in our cheese.

We had to shift gears. The goats had only been milked by hand, and now we had the proper set up to be able to use a milking machine. This brought a whole new set of challenges; although quite handy, milking machines can be injurious to the goats' udders if not used properly, and there are many places within them for bacteria to hide. Another example: I had been pasteurizing milk on the kitchen stove in a five-gallon stainless steel milk can surrounded by hot water in a big pot that was designed for canning vegetables. It took up two burners on the stovetop. Now we were doing it in a vat that was an actual pasteurizer. We gradually got familiar with the ins and outs of the new equipment.

I forget how many goats we were milking that fall; my guess would be 15 or so with prospects of milking 25 the next season. In the first two months before the goats dried off for the winter, we made about 500 pounds of cheese (that's what we make in a week these days) and started marketing it to stores and restaurants around the Berkshires.

Wayne and I had now been living together for thirteen years and we decided to get married over the winter in early 1984. After the wedding we went skiing in Vermont for a week, and my brother John was staying at our place, keeping the fire going and tending the animals. The morning before we were to return home, I phoned my mother's house to relay our return plans, and when I said hello she responded with some gasps and chokes and no words. Immediately the phone was passed to brother John (what was he doing at their house so early in the morning I thought?). We exchanged quick hellos and I started questioning what was wrong with our mother; what was going on! I then felt him pause, take a deep breath and deliver this line on the exhale: "Your house burned to the ground yesterday." I remember responding with two words: "No s---."

I don't quite know where to go from here in this Part 3 of the History of Rawson Brook Farm. This event was a huge part of

Susan Sellew

Transitioning into business mode: the old pasteurizer and the new.

that early history; I'll try to be quick. We stayed away an extra day before coming home. We found ourselves skiing down the slopes naming aloud things we had lost. In our minds we scanned the walls and went through drawers, saying goodbye to all our stuff.

It had been our friend Coleman, the retired banker in the white flannel pants, who had first come upon the missing house at 2:30 in the afternoon. He literally did not believe his eyes and had to drive back to take another look before making it all the way up to the General Store to tell Maynard. It was my mother who had come to the house maybe five hours earlier to drop off a few things and decided to help

out by stoking the woodstove but hadn't closed it down properly. I can only write this now that she has passed on. She may not have known what she had done, or she swept the realization way, way under the rug. It didn't matter. While she was alive, the cause of the fire was attributed to mice.

The house must have burned hot and fast leaving eerie and curiously mysterious remains to come home to. One of the biggest teases was the file box with all my business research in it. It was on the ground and I could see an outline of all the files and edges of all the paper and for a fleeting moment I dared to hope it had been miraculously spared but when I reached out to touch it: poof. It was all fine ash.

Wayne and I were thankful that we had been spared much of the original trauma: we hadn't actually witnessed the burning of the house and loss of our things, and it was the firemen who bore the heavy burden of not knowing where my brother was while they were walking through the ashes with their noses telling them that something living had perished in the fire; they didn't know we had had a cat.

The community outpouring of help and goodwill was like a floodgate opening; at first it was more than I could handle. My friend Ellen was the frontrunner. She collected and edited offerings and would deliver a funny collage card along with useful items each day, and lists of more things people had offered. Every day in the mail there would be cards, offers of temporary housing, and some people even sent money. One person who had experienced a house fire sent a box of pens, pencils, rubber bands, tape, and paper clips. Dear Edith Wilson, who was never one to mince words, sent me a little poem; I don't remember the first few lines but the last one was "but always remember it could have been worse."

So it was that our first full year of business was met with some unexpected challenges. Early on during our skiing week we had vowed not to do another building project for quite some time. Building the barn and processing rooms had been incredibly stressful, we agreed; we had agonized over each and every decision right down to how high to put the light switches. Little did we know then that we would be building a house next!

But the thing about this goat farming is that once the animals are bred in the fall, your entire next year has been mapped out. The goats, even though they had obviously watched as our house burned, weren't fazed a bit. Kidding season came round in the spring of 1984, babies were born, and the milk was flowing; we were up and running for our first full season. We were moving from house to house for our shelter and would arrive at the barn each morning with our bowls of dry cereal (only in need of fresh goat milk) and a packed lunch, and we did what we had to do: work on perfecting our systems, find new markets, learn about packaging and shipping, keep the goats healthy—the list is long. All along the way, we received wonderful praise for our product and that kept us moving forward.

Now we are planning our 30th year anniversary celebration that will be Sunday, Oct 13th from 1-4. Please see the side box for details about a way YOU can be involved.

—Susan Sellew

Competition at Rawson Brook Farm 30th Anniversary Event

Sunday, October 13

Judging begins at 2 p.m. sharp
(The event is 1–4 p.m.)

Bring YOUR favorite dish made with Monterey Chèvre to be evaluated by our panel of seriously silly judges . . . headed up by
Jeremy Stanton & Dominic Palumbo.
Register beforehand by submitting your recipe or concept via email so we can have a compilation available at the event.
All participants get a free 1-lb tub of Monterey Chèvre.
ssellew@verizon.net

eggs • raw honey • local maple syrup • chevre strawbs & raspberries & greens coming
and more in the worx -
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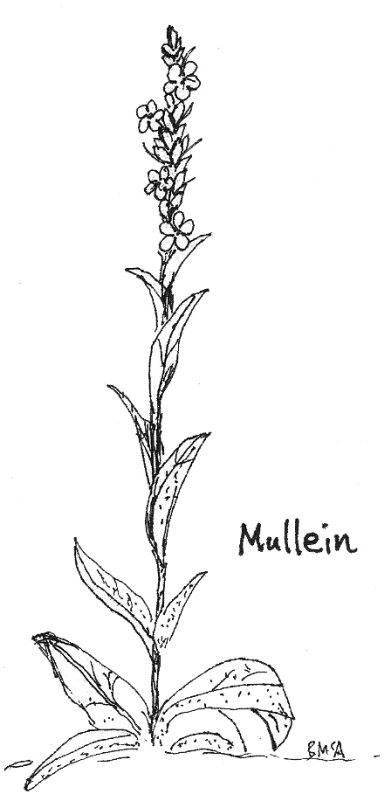
Great Velvet Flannel Plant

Mullein stalks make strong vertical lines skyward along the roadsides and gravelly places all summer, lit with yellow blossoms in a slim spike of flowers at the top. The leaves are so wooly with fine white hairs that some people have given the plant a common name including words like "snow," and "frosty." The Latin name for mullein, *Verbascum thapsus*, also refers to its looks. *Verbascum* is some version of *barbascum*, which means bearded, and the second name, *thapsus*, says that mullein looks like a type of plant once found in the ancient Greek town of Thapsos, which was in today's Sicily.

Now we have it widespread in the United States, thanks to the Puritans, who knew its medicinal properties. They brought it here and concocted cures and treatments from its leaves, roots, flowers, and seeds. It grew well but did not crowd the crops and is still not considered to be a "problem plant," even though we no longer collect its seeds to intoxicate fish, nor do we wrap our arthritic joints in its soft leaves.

Besides the obvious daily uses we might like to recall and engage, there are unexpected things mullein can do for us. For instance, mullein is a bactericide, or antibiotic. The sixteenth-century English botanist and herbalist John Gerarde noted, "Figs do not putrifie at all that are wrapped in the leaves of mullein." A concoction will also inhibit the tuberculosis bacillus. For more mysterious troubles, mullein works to ward off curses and evil spirits.

To know the mullein, we need understand it is biennial. The first year it grows low to the ground, a large rosette of silvery green fuzzy leaves, sometimes more than eight inches long and two or three inches across. The next year a great flower stalk surges up from the center of the rosette, with the leaves along it being smaller and



smaller the farther up they grow. They also cling to the stalk, a habit which is called "decurrent." The stalk may be ten feet tall, though I don't think I have seen one so mighty as this. The buds form along the spike at the top, and small yellow flowers open day after day after day from June to September. Each flower is only open for part of a day, but the insects come to its five stamens and carry pollen from one plant to another. When the seeds are ripe, goldfinches and a few other kinds of birds come for them, apparently not troubled by the narcotic effect these seeds are known to have on fish. Early industrious people used the seeds to stun fish, making them easy to pick up and take home for supper. The seeds contain a piscicide.

The stalk of a mullein plant, which is certainly long and strong, can be used as a walking cane. I read in a venerable book, The New Nature Library, Vol. 7, *Nature's Garden an Aid to Knowledge of Our Wild Flowers and Their Insect Visitors*, by Neltje Blanchan (New York: Doubleday, 1900), that this stalk makes almost as good a cane as bamboo, especially if you get one with a crook in the root end, for a handle, which can form if it grows against a rock.

Coughs, colds, frostbite, bruises, keeping figs from putrifaction—the list includes hair dye made from the flowers that can color our hair either yellow or green. We should try all these things, and it is hard to know where to start. I have looked at the long list and the word that calls to me is "rubrifacient." This describes the velvety big leaves of the mullein, which can be rubbed on our cheeks. "Pale country beauties rub their cheeks with the velvety leaves to make them rosy" (Blanchan, p. 331). That's where I'll start. Then maybe a little narcotic intoxication, and of course green hair dye. All this and more here on our shores, thanks to the Puritans.

—Bonner J. McAllester

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From the Meetinghouse . . .
Beautiful Meadow, Green Woods

Are northern-latitude, temperate-climate people really most comfortable living underground? Or do I feel that way just because the mid-July heat and humidity really got to me this past summer?

Perhaps it's that simple, a straight line between cause and effect. But it's also because I have friends visiting the Orkney Islands as I write this, and this time six years ago I'd just arrived back home from Orkney. (The islands lie thirty miles or so due north of the Great Britain landmass, and are currently a part of Scotland, though the claim is more Scots than Orkney.)

I'd been on a study tour that focused on the local Neolithic stoneworks and the culture whose people created them. One of our daytime adventures was to visit a Neolithic homestead called Skara Brae. These five-thousand-year-old stone dwellings were discovered for contemporary humanity due to an act of God, and I mean that in the way the phrase is used in current insurance documents. One night late in the 1800s, an immense storm hit the Orkneys: howling wind, sky full of horizontally driven water, waves jackhammering the shore, the whole works. In the morning, a large section of the nineteenth-century beach had been washed away, revealing a cluster of linked Neolithic stone dwellings. Happily the then-current Laird of the Manor appreciated the historicity of both the place and the event. He turned the site over to the Crown; it's now one of the National Historic Sites scattered though Scotland.

Mary Kate Jordan

Neolithic Studies students at the National Historic Site, Skara Brae, Orkney, Scotland

Neolithic dwellings were built according to a specific template. The form required anyone entering a living place to enter a door cut low in a hillside and then crouch through to the end of a covered entry hall no more than forty inches high. But recent research suggests these weren't the homes of "little people," as the folktales call them. They were homes for people apparently savvy about practical details useful in a northern climate: *warm air rises; keep the entrance low*.

The name Skara Brae means Beautiful Meadow. Five thousand years later, it's still beautiful. The afternoon I was there, I counted more than thirty species of flowering herbs I could name, including chamomile with flowers large enough to be mistaken for daisies. Since our predecessors here in Monterey nearly named this town Green Woods, maybe that small sample suggests there's a practical sense of beauty that's been with our species at least since Neolithic times. And isn't that practical sense of beauty at least part of what brought those of us who weren't born here to Monterey in the first place? And isn't it also what keeps those of us who were born here and stayed, happily rooted in these green woods and beautiful meadows? *Skara Brae*. It would be a great name for a homestead in Monterey. A homestead with its home standing above, or sited within, the ground. Either way.

—Mary Kate Jordan

Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local References *Sliding Scale*

with

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"The best massage I ever had." –E.D., Monterey

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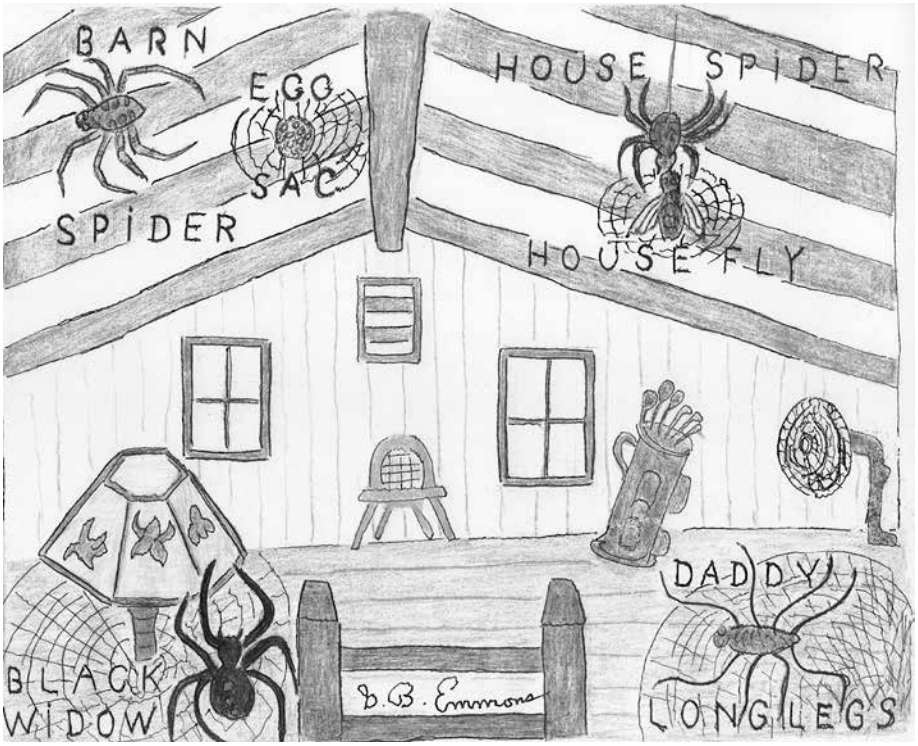
Spiders

The kind of spiders you might find in your attic or in your barn are probably very beneficial! Although predatory, they catch and eat unwanted bugs and insects after injecting them with a tranquilizer. But for most of us, the first encounter makes a lasting impression, and, like meeting a snake in your garden, there is a distressing reaction of uncertainty. However the toxic bites of either brown recluse or black widow spiders are rare because they usually will try to get away! Most spider bites are defensive when the spider is unintentionally squeezed or pinched. So we all should resist the reaction to wipe away the web of their flytrap or the supporting filament. The strands of the filament will stretch and for their thickness are as strong as comparable threads of steel.

Although spiders come in more than fifty different varieties, all have four legs on each side of the thorax, some with eight eyes of several sizes. They communicate with each other through vibrating antenna on legs and body. They also sense movement of a fly in their trap through the filament of their web. It is true that females of some spiders like the brown recluse or black widow eat their mate after breeding but only when the male cannot get away in cramped quarters.



Fossils of spiders, classified as Arachnida, date back as far as 380 million years, so they play a vital role in the establishment of the natural world. Present closely related species include the deadly western scorpion, centipedes, insects, ticks, and horseshoe crabs, The nearest living relatives you might encounter are many crustaceans such as the Atlantic spider crab, the lobster, and the Alaskan king crab. But in their adaptations to environment many have evolved to be classified by survival habits, such as jumping spiders, spitting spiders, wolf spiders, and water spiders. The water varieties are able to dive under water and go fishing.

Down through the ages, the images of spiders have symbolic reputations especially in folklore. Sometimes misconstrued for mischief and malice, they have also demonstrated an artistic talent for spinning, weaving, and basketry web making. The Native American Navajos have a myth that a spider is the Grandmother creating all things through the shimmering threads that came out of her belly. Similarly the spider's patience to overcome impossible challenges is told in the fourteenth-century legend of King Robert the Bruce of Scotland. Forced into exile and taking refuge in a cave, he was inspired by watching a spider overcome repeated failure to spin

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its thread over a beam. Taking inspiration from its perseverance in trying and trying again, Robert the Bruce won Scotland's independence.

In literature for children, *Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White still ranks as a best seller, as is the nursery rhyme of Mother Goose that tells about Little Miss Muffet who sat on a tuffet until frightened away by a spider that sat down beside her—the usual human reaction. Mary Howitt's 1829 poem "The Spider and The Fly" ("Will you walk into my parlour?" said the Spider to the Fly) also taught the cautionary lesson that one should beware of disguised predatory instincts. But Walt Whitman, in his 1868 poem "A Noiseless Patient Spider," likens the filaments the spider sends forth to the "gossamer thread" his soul flings, "seeking the spheres to connect them." More recently, *The Lord of The Rings* and *The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien, followed by the film *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* made spiders supernatural.

But writing about spiders today does not need more fiction. It is more interesting to venture up into your attic and see for yourself the good work they are doing.

—George B. Emmons

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Hoop Reverie

If you go into the town of Monterey on a Sunday morning during the summer months you will see a lot of things: the General Store packed to capacity with friendly customers, people giddily walking along the country road . . . and a very busy basketball court in the town park. The Monterey basketball court has been home to Sunday pickup games since I can remember. Men from ages twenty to sixty have woken up early every Sunday to take part in this town tradition, and while some may go home beaten and battered none go home unsatisfied.

Just the other day I was driving through town on a Friday, and as we passed the town park a friend said, "I have never seen anyone on that court besides on a Sunday." All I said was, "I know," but what was really going through my mind was, "Isn't it perfect?" While many enjoy the games on Sunday mornings, I am not one to play in them. Not because I am afraid to be beaten, not because I don't like to play pickup games, but because of the great pleasure I get from playing when the court is completely abandoned.

There is nothing quite like arriving at the Monterey town park to play basketball and finding that you have the whole court to yourself. Arriving in the evening hours just as the sun goes down, you step onto the court and feel the cool mountain air surround you. As you sit down to tie your shoes the quiet buzz of night creatures come to life serving as your musical soundtrack. Walking to the hoop, you enter nature's melody with the bouncing of the ball. You let go of your first shot, and as it swishes through the net you are immersed in the world of basketball. As you dribble up and down the court you cross the ball over, put it between your legs, repeat. Crossover, between the legs, repeat, finishing on the opposite end with a layup.

Getting the ball out of the net, you turn to see low-dropping clouds serving as your defenders. Spinning around the first, you send the mist twirling like a carousel up into the now-star-gleaming sky. Crossing over the second water-saturated life form, you pull up for a jump shot at the foul line and watch your shot rattle in. Sitting down to catch your breath, you can't help but think, what could be better than what lies right in front of you? A true paradise on earth.

The pleasure of spending a cool evening playing basketball in the Berkshires is one that I feel anyone who plays basketball should experience. Although the summer months are coming to a close, there is still plenty of opportunity to get out and enjoy some outdoor basketball.

Often when visiting the Monterey town park I think about a family friend, Jamie Bogdonoff. Jamie was someone who shared a true love in playing basketball on the Monterey town park court, and I look forward to the day when the court is renamed in his memory.

—Daniel Padalino

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Gustation? The Encarta Dictionary *states: "the action of tasting, or the sense or faculty of taste"*

Picking Pounds of Peaches!

Here we are again . . . in the thick of it. Carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes, green beans, patty pan squash, zucchini (keep your car doors locked), sweet corn, peppers, beets, etc. I can't go into the garden without at least one large basket for collection. We feel so rich with the abundance of our seasonal bounty. We've been busy making pickles, freezing blueberries, pulling carrots, and picking tomatoes. But this year is a bit special for us. We had the good fortune of inheriting three peach trees when we moved here. Two of them are a variety called Burbank. The third is a mystery but now has peaches that are so sweet, juicy, and large we think it might be a Berkshire peach (at least that's what we call it). We're picking pounds of peaches from it and they are sublime.

Our little Berkshire peach tree didn't start out so well. When we moved here five years ago, the tree was small and looking like it might not make it. We nearly cut it down. Instead, we fed the trees with some composted manure that year, got some pruning advice, and decided to wait. We were rewarded the next year with robust growth but no peaches. The Burbank variety also responded well but their fruit won't be ready until the middle of September. Growing peaches here in Berkshire County is a bit tricky. A late frost in the spring can make the tree drop its blossoms, and all you can do is wait another year! Of course there are also bugs and brown rot, so we're pretty tickled to have such a precious sweet treat just outside the kitchen window.

This recipe comes from *Fine Cooking* magazine. It is a rustic tart that will easily accept any summer fruit you have; use all peaches if that's what you have. The instructions seem a bit long but are quite easy. I think you could even make the dough ahead of time and refrigerate or freeze it; just let it warm just to rolling temperature when you are ready. Check the farmer's markets and farm stands for the freshest fruit. Hope you are having a peachy summer!

Stephen Moore

Peach and Blueberry Galette

For the crust

1½ cups flour, more for rolling
1 Tablespoon sugar
½ tsp. salt
11 Tablespoons unsalted butter, chilled and cut into ½" dice
1 large egg yolk
3 Tablespoons milk

For the filling

2 cups peaches, peeled and cut into ½" slices
2 cups blueberries
¼ cup brown sugar
2 Tablespoons flour
¼ tsp. cinnamon
Pinch of salt
1 large egg, beaten
2 Tablespoons demerara sugar or coarse white sugar

Make the dough

Combine the flour, sugar, and salt in a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment at low speed. Add the butter to the flour. Mix until the flour is no longer white and holds together when you clump it with your fingers, 1–2 minutes. If there are still lumps of butter larger than the size of peas, break them up with your fingers.

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In a small bowl, beat the egg yolk and milk and add to the flour mixture. Mix on low speed just until the dough comes together, about 15 seconds; the dough will be somewhat soft. Turn the dough out onto a sheet of plastic wrap, press it into a flat disk, wrap it in the plastic, and let it rest in the refrigerator for 15–20 minutes before rolling out.

Meanwhile, position a rack in the center of the oven and heat the oven to 350 degrees. Line a large rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper.

Make the filling and roll out the dough
In a medium bowl, toss the peaches and blueberries with the brown sugar, flour, cinnamon, and salt.

Lightly flour a large work surface and roll out the dough to a 12–13" round. Transfer to the prepared baking sheet. Arrange the fruit in the center of the dough, leaving about 1½" of space around the perimeter of the dough empty. Fold the outside edge of the dough over the fruit, making occasional pleats. Brush the crust with the egg. Sprinkle the demerara sugar evenly over the dough and fruit.

Bake the galette until the crust turns a light brown and the filling bubbles, about 50 minutes. Let cool for 10 minutes then cut into wedges and serve warm, alone or with ice cream. Serves about 8, or two people four times ☺.

Anyone found a delicious recipe for Japanese Beetles, now local and plentiful?

—Wendy G. Jensen
wendygj@gmail.com

Floodplain Forest Restoration at Bartholomew's Cobble

The final steps of a multiyear project to restore the floodplain forest of Bartholomew's Cobble are underway with the planting of native trees on The Trustees of Reservations property. More than 1,800 trees will be planted to restore this important area, including silver maple, box elder, cottonwood, sycamore, tulip tree, hackberry, and seven varieties of disease-resistant elms.

Bartholomew's Cobble, a property owned by The Trustees of Reservations, is a National Natural Landmark (designated by the National Park Service) and provides critical habitat to more than thirty state-listed species. The Floodplain Forest Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project that is underway will restore ten acres of floodplain forest, improve an additional seventy-five acres of state-listed priority habitat, and eliminate threats from non-native invasive plants.

The Trustees of Reservations, Project Native, and Helia Land Design collaborated to bring this project to fruition. Project Native expanded its native plant nursery at its Housatonic location to accommodate and care for the trees used in the restoration.

"Converting three former hay fields that were dominated by invasive reed canary grass into floodplain forest has been an exciting and important project that we are glad to be a part of," said Bridghe McCracken, owner of Helia Land Design and project manager for the planting. Much of the seed for the project was collected on-site to be cleaned by Project Native and later used in the restoration. "This is important because it ensures that we are replanting with local genotype," says McCracken. In 2011, more than three hundred tree seedlings were collected by The Trustees' Holyoke Youth Conservation Corps and cared for at their nursery in Holyoke before transferring the trees to Project Native in 2012 for overwintering and preparation for the planting.

Partial funding for the project came from a Natural Resource Damages Grant. The Fund was established in 2000, when General Electric was required to provide $15 million to the Natural Resource Trustees for natural resource damages associated with the environmental harm caused by releases of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) into the Housatonic River watershed in western Massachusetts and Connecticut.

"The Trustees are thankful for being able to partner with Project Native and Helia to ensure the success of this project and we hope that we will be able to partner on other projects benefiting native plants at other reservations in the future." Says Julie Richburg, Project Manager for the restoration.

The restoration does not end with the planting of the trees; monitoring of the site will continue for two years after completion. Although invasive plant species will always require some effort to control, by the end of the project the major populations within more than eighty acres of the property will be brought to a level manageable by existing staff.

The Trustees is committed to ensuring that the forest becomes a mature floodplain forest, which will take time well beyond the time frame of the grant.

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Monterey Walks from Julius Miner's Recollections (1940)

Part 11: South Lee [Beartown Mountain] Road

Prepared by Barbara Swann for the Monterey Historical Society

We start out from the village church on the Tyringham Road. Between the stone pier entrance to a large summer place and the turn of the road to the left, is where the tip-ups nest [does anyone know what these are?].

The stone walls along the fields and roadsides are said by geologists to abound with jasper. A favorite joke of theirs formerly was that nearing Monterey they must be approaching the Heavenly City for the walls were jasper.

Take the first turn to the left. As we approach the first home on the left we notice a level meadow running down to the river. We follow the path near the house and see a mound with much white around it. This was an old limekiln. On its walls can be seen something resembling pale green glass. It is melted silicate, mute proof of the intensity of the fiery heat when limestone was burned using local hard woods as fuel.

The next feature of interest is the oldest cemetery in Monterey [on left just past Hupi Road]. The epitaphs on the tombstones bespeak the thoughts and meditations of the early settlers of Monterey. Crossing the next bridge we come to a small mound where once stood a twine factory.

As you cross the bridge, you see the site of an old dam that supplied power for a four-story factory close by. In it were made folding wooden pocket combs. burlap, hay-rakes, violins, drums, and bootjacks.

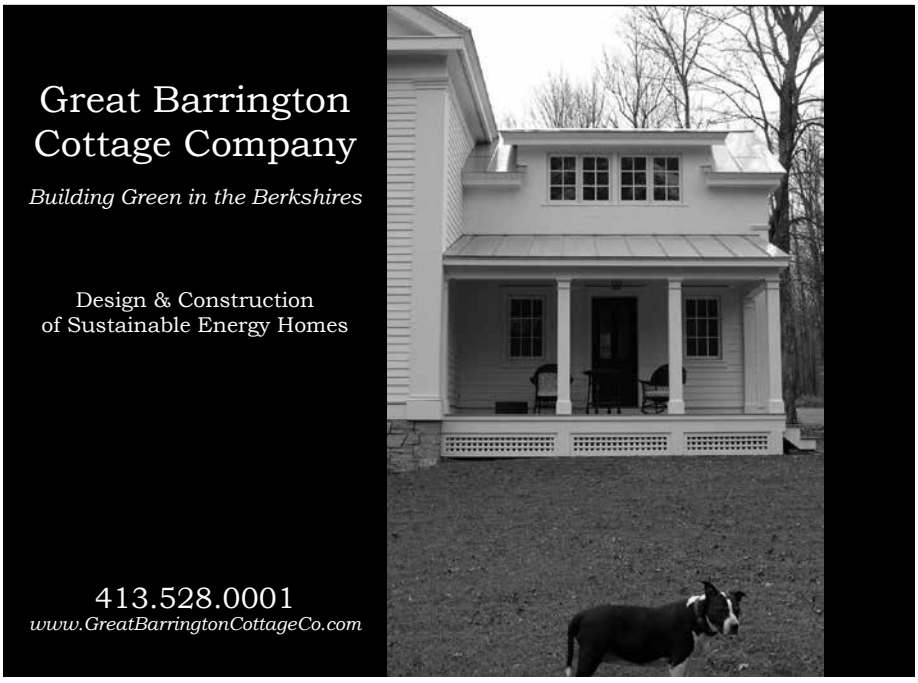
As you look up the stream you may well think of a little boy who went in swimming here one summer day although he had been forbidden to do so. His assigned punishment was to remain dressed for the day in girls' clothing. Alas, company came and in embarrassment he fled to the hot attic to await their going. Unfortunately for him they stayed all day. That little boy became United States Supreme Court Justice [David] Brewer. His old homestead was that house on the left.

We are now in the original village commonly known as the Old Center. Notice the old brick house on the left. It was built by Barnabas Bidwell, who was Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Under the large evergreen trees where there is a road to the left stood the post-office. The opposite corner was the schoolhouse. Across from the schoolhouse, where poplar trees now stand was the Church.

Opposite from that brick house was the Village Green, and Civil War veterans told often of troops being drilled upon this green by Colonel Daniel Garfield. Passing the site of the old church, we find another cemetery. It lies back of the open field facing the road. In this cemetery are many graves of interest. One is that of Colonel Giles Jackson.

Returning from the cemetery and continuing to where the road turns left and where there is a marker "Massachusetts State Forest," we note the site of one of the first homes built in Monterey. It was built by John Chadwick and eventually was called the Burgoyne House. When members of Burgoyne's defeated army passed through the town some of them stayed overnight, at least, in this house. Bullet holes were seen in the door, caused when one soldier's gun went off unexpectedly. While here they killed and dressed a beef, hanging its carcass from a tree.

It was related by old settlers that in the early days in Monterey there was such an abundance of wild nut trees hereabouts that they fattened their hogs in the fall by turning them loose in the woods where they feasted upon beechnuts, acorns, and chestnuts. Those were prosperous days for nearly everyone. All kept their land grazed



clear from their doorstep to the roadway so that, in any high-doing such as a funeral, they could stand on their own doorsteps and watch for instance a funeral procession all the way from the church door to the entrance to the cemetery.

One of the oldest stories about town arose here. One night Chadwick heard a noise among his poultry. Having his suspicions, he raised his window and called, "Is that you, John, after my chickens?" "Them's my intentions" came the frank reply.

The next house is one of the earliest ones to be left standing. Notice the roof, the old glass, the windows, and the entrance door. Inside may be seen the original beamed ceiling and the paneled wainscoting. About an eighth of a mile further on, we see on the right a heap of ruins. Observe how the chimney was pointed with clay instead of with plaster. The roof was covered with large strips of birch bark before the shingles were laid. The first piano in town came to this house. Opposite the house was a large iron kettle and penstock, used for a watering trough.

Chadwick-Burgoyne-Parsons Minor House, Beartown Mountain Road, date uncertain. Photo courtesy Monterey Historical Society.

The water was piped from a spring on the upper side of the road through a log pipe.

Farther on nearing the bridge we see where the old Boston and Albany Post Road crossed. This is more distinct on the lower side of the road. On the upper side of the road, a little this side of the Post Road is the site of the Jackson House. This was another of the very early houses. The bricks used were of unusual size. One of them is preserved in the Monterey Library and weighs ten pounds. These bricks were supposed to have been brought to America by ships which used them for ballast.

Passing up the hill and beyond a road to the right is a cellar hole, to the right. A little farther on, on the same side, is another cellar hole where once stood a pretentious house erected by one of the early setters. Notice the well. There is a gruesome story that the owner had the well cleaned out because of the queer taste of the water. We simply do not believe the tale that he had never missed one of his children until then, even though he did have a large family.

The first road to the right beyond this leads to the Shaker Village. The first to the left leads into the State Forest. Straight on a little farther, we see a large rock on the right. Geologists pronounce it the only one of its kind this side of northern Canada. It is supposed to have been brought here by a glacier. Once, a schoolhouse known as the Rock School House stood beside this rock. The builder of the house nearby started in Chicago a nationally known soap business. Look on the knoll or ridge back of that house for a stone-walled enclosure. This is the Shaker burying-ground and is an interesting place to visit.

We are five miles from the village of Monterey. Let us return.

Music & More in September

Music & More's 2013 Festival continues with three events in September. All events take place on Saturdays at 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House, 154 Hartsville-New Marlborough Road. Tickets for the September events are $25, or $20 for members of the New Marlborough Village Association. Details can be found at newmarlborough.org/music-more. Please visit newmarlborough.org/music-more or call 413-229-2785 for information. Tickets can be reserved at tickets@newmarlborough.org.

September 7: "License My Roving Hands: Letters, Lyrics and Music from Chaucer to Donne"
Noted actor Jonathan Epstein will present a dramatic reading of King Henry VIII's love letters to Anne Boleyn, Chaucer's bawdy tales, Shakespeare's sonnets, and the writings of Aubrey and Donne. A pre-concert talk takes place at 3:30 p.m. Epstein will be joined by Calliope: A Renaissance Band.

September 21: The Apollo Trio
Curtis Macomber, violin, Michael Kannen, cello, and Marija Stroke, piano, will perform Mozart's Trio in G Major, K. 564, Rachmaninoff's youthful Trio Élégiaque #1 in G Minor and Schubert's monumental Trio in E flat Major, Opus 100.

September 28: "Anything Goes! Karen Akers Sings Cole Porter"
The legendary and multitalented Tony-award-winning singer devotes an entire evening of music by the famed Cole Porter. She will be accompanied by pianist Don Rebic, her longtime collaborator. The show will be followed by a gala wine tasting.

P.O. Box 9, 01245

Thank You, Park Commission

To the Editor:
Many thanks to Josh Allentuck and the Park Commission for installing a handrail at the Monterey town beach to make navigating to the water simpler. My appreciation to him, his crew, and his lifeguards.
—Carol Ingher, Monterey

Contributors

Many thanks to the following folks for their recent contributions. The *News* staff and Board of Directors are very grateful for your continuing support of our community newspaper.

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Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

Every Sunday through October: Softball game at Greene Park, 10 a.m.

Through September 28: *MaryPaul Yates: Fabric Design* exhibit, Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. See p. 6.

September 5–9: Bidwell and Brewer Family Reunion, Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road, Monterey.

Saturday, September 7:

Marshall Messer will read from his new book, *Change at Jamaica*, 7 p.m., Monterey Library. Free; book signing and reception follow. See p. 7.

"Letters, Lyrics and Music from Chaucer to Donne," a dramatic reading Jonathan Epstein with music by Calliope: A Renaissance Band, 4:30 p.m., New Marlborough Meeting House, Rt. 57. $15; $10 NMVA members. See p. 26.

Wednesdays, September 11, 18. 25: Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 11 a.m.–noon, Monterey Firehouse. Free.

Saturday, September 21:

Housatonic Heritage Walk: Bee Hunting on Bidwell Grounds, 10 a.m. Housatonic Heritage Walk: From Hinterland to Homestead, 1:00 p.m., Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road, Monterey. Info, www.bidwellhousemuseum.org. See p. 14.

Classical music concert by The Apollo Trio, 4:30 p.m., New Marlborough Meeting House, Rt. 57. $15; $10 NMVA members. See p. 26.

Monday, September 23: Adult book group will discuss *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library. Newcomers welcome.

Saturday, September 28

Stone-Wall Building Workshop with Roger Tryon, 10 a.m., Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road, Monterey. See p. 14.

"Anything Goes! Karen Akers Sings Cole Porter," 4:30 p.m., New Marlborough Meeting House, Rt. 57. See p. 26.

Saturday, October 5:

Opening reception for *Midori Curtis: Abstract Prints and Drawings Exhibition*, 7–8:30 p.m., Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. See p. 6.

Music & More Award-Winning Authors Panel Discussion, 4:30 p.m., New Marlborough Meeting House, 154 Hartsville-New Marlborough Road. See p. 14.

Saturday, October 12: Octoberfest, noon–5 p.m., Wilson-McLaughlin House/ Monterey Community Center. See p. 14.

Monterey News

The Monterey News is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

The Observer

July 26 – August 25

High temp. (8/21)	80º
Low temp. (8/15)	45°
Avg. high temp.	73.9°
Avg. low temp.	52.4°
Avg. temp.	63.2°
Total rainfall	3.9 in.

Rainfall occurred on 9 days.

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Contributions from local and guest artists this month: Pat Arnow, 9; Rachel Arnow, 7; Maureen Banner, 26; George Emmons, 20; Robert Horvath, 15; Bonner McAllester, 18.

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